



**Erie Canal Harbor
Development
Corporation**

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**Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation Announces Release of Construction
Manager RFP for Children's Museum at Canalside**

Selected team will oversee the construction of Explore & More building

Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) today announced that a Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued seeking a construction manager to oversee the design and construction of Explore & More Children's Museum. The nearly 43,000 square foot building will be located next to the restored canal system at Canalside. The revitalization of Buffalo's waterfront is a key component of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's plan to transform the Western New York economy.

To view the RFP, visit <http://eriecanalharbor.com/rfprfq.asp>. To view the location of the museum parcel, click [here](#). Proposals are due March 31, 2016 with pre-construction services, including value engineering and analysis, scheduling, cost estimating and document review, expected to begin in June 2016. A groundbreaking is expected for March 2017 with construction completed by June 2018. The museum will open in 2018.

"This RFP is an important step as we work to redevelop the South Aud Block and build on amenities and attractions already put in place by ECHDC on the site," said ECHDC Chairman Robert Gioia. "With approximately one million visitors coming to Canalside and enjoying the diverse recreational opportunities there, the addition of Explore & More will build on the tremendous success of this dynamic waterfront area and help deliver the next phase of exciting recreational and entertainment options for residents and visitors alike."

"On behalf of Explore & More, its donors, the widespread community support we have received, and the children of Western New York, we are very excited for this demonstrative first step toward the completion of the building and our opening at Canalside," said Explore & More CEO Douglas Love.

As outlined in the RFP, the South Aud Block consists of nearly one acre of development space and it is envisioned that multiple buildings will be constructed there over time. ECHDC is currently focused on designing the core and shell of the museum building that will be located on one of the South Aud Block's parcels (highlighted in orange

[here](#)). The building will house Explore & More Children's Museum on five levels and will include an outdoor terrace. In 2012 following an earlier RFP process, Explore & More was selected by ECHDC to locate its new museum at Canalside.

The entire Canalside project area is located along the foot of Main Street and is within walking distance to downtown residential developments, two Marriott hotels, the First Niagara Center (home to the NHL Buffalo Sabres), the HARBORCENTER, Erie Basin Marina and Coca-Cola Field (home to the AAA Buffalo Bisons). The area has quickly become one of the region's great year round destinations for passive and active recreational opportunities.

About Explore & More Children's Museum

Celebrating its 22nd year in operation, Explore & More Children's Museum provides an environment for creative play and learning through hands-on exhibits, activities and programs that inspire creativity, curiosity and imagination. Explore & More Children's Museum is currently located at 300 Gleed Avenue in East Aurora, and will open in the South Aud Block at Canalside on the Buffalo waterfront in 2018. For more information about the Museum, visit www.exploreandmore.org or call (716) 655-5131 ext. 11.

About Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation

The Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) is governed by a nine-member board consisting of seven voting directors and two non-voting, ex-officio directors. The seven voting directors are recommended by the New York State Governor and are appointed by the New York State Urban Development Corporation d/b/a Empire State Development as sole shareholder of ECHDC. The two nonvoting, ex-officio director positions are held by the Erie County Executive and the City of Buffalo Mayor.

As a subsidiary of Empire State Development, the state's chief economic development agency, the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation supports and promotes the creation of infrastructure and public activities at Canalside, the Ohio Street corridor and the Outer Harbor that is attracting critical mass, private investment and enhance the enjoyment of the waterfront for residents and tourists in Western New York. Its vision is to revitalize Western New York's waterfront and restore economic growth to Buffalo based on the region's legacy of pride, urban significance and natural beauty. For more information on ECHDC, visit www.eriecanalharbor.com.

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